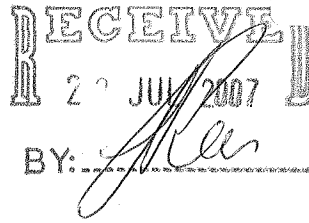


Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
Government of Western Australia

Submission 6  
TT 13 June 2007



Our Ref: 200705933

Mr James Rees  
Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Rees

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS**

I refer to the letter dated 13 June 2007 from Dr Andrew Southcott MP to the Premier regarding the above treaty action, which was referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

Western Australia provides the following comment:

The Department of Fisheries is the lead agency for the management of aquatic biosecurity in Western Australia and supports the ratification of the Convention. The Department has the responsibility of developing and implementing legislation so that WA can meet its obligations under the *Intergovernmental Agreement on a National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions* signed by the Minister for Fisheries in 2005. Under the IGA, WA is required to implement legislation that will allow the State to introduce management arrangements that are complementary to both the International Convention and the National System.

The Department is currently drafting instructions for regulations on ballast water management under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Bill (the Bill) and will be responsible for implementing these regulations once they come into effect.

The Bill was released for public consultation in late 2005, and was formally introduced into Parliament in 2006. It was then referred to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Legislation in December 2006, with debate Bill resuming in the Legislative Council in May 2007. The legislation will be proclaimed once all the necessary regulations and administrative arrangements have been finalised, and it is anticipated it will come into operation in mid/late 2008.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely



David Hatt  
**CHIEF POLICY ADVISER**

cc Hon Jon Ford JP MLC  
Minister for Fisheries

16 JUL 2007